



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO DESIGNATE SAFE ZONES FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS.

WHEREAS, homelessness in the City and County of Honolulu ("City") continues to be a pervasive problem in spite of efforts by government agencies and private service organizations; and

WHEREAS, the City has invested more than \$65 million in initiatives that aim to reduce homelessness on Oahu since the first "sit-lie" ban was adopted in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the City and the State of Hawaii, in addition to private and non-profit service agencies, provide services to assist homeless individuals, including temporary sheltering, housing, medical and psychological care, employment counseling, and substance abuse treatment; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Statewide Homeless Point-in-Time Count estimated that out of a total of 4,959 homeless persons living in the City, 2,324 individuals were unsheltered, an increase of approximately seven percent from last year; and

WHEREAS, homeless individuals may remain unsheltered for a variety of reasons, such as personal preference, lack of shelter space, and an inability or unwillingness to follow shelter rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, alternatives to traditional homeless sheltering and housing programs might eliminate some of the barriers that prevent certain homeless individuals from seeking assistance; and

WHEREAS, a small, secure parcel of land, or "safe zone," would allow homeless individuals to erect a tent without fear of eviction and provide access to restroom facilities, social services, and security; and

WHEREAS, safe zones could also offer a level of stability to homeless individuals, allowing them to address any pressing needs and eventually realize long-term solutions to their homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Council appropriated, \$18 million in Fiscal Year ("FY") 2016 and \$5 million in FY 2017 for the Community Revitalization Initiative, which would allow for "the land acquisition, lease, development and/or renovation of facilities for urban rest stops, navigation centers, workforce/affordable housing, and other community-focused projects..."; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 17-277

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the \$23 million that the Council appropriated for the Community Revitalization Initiative in FY 2016 and FY 2017 can be used to help establish safe zones for homeless individuals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is urged to designate safe zones for homeless individuals on Oahu, where these individuals would not be subject to ejection by government officials at any time of day or night and threatened with the loss of their meager possessions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administration is further urged to release the \$23 million from the FY 2016 and FY 2017 Capital Improvement Budgets, appropriated by the Council for the Community Revitalization Initiative for the purpose of establishing safe zones; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Community Services, and the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 05 2017

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers